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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 672nd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 13 January 1994, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. GAMBARI (Nigeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

ELECTION OF THE BUREAU OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

2. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Special Committee wished to maintain the current composition of posts in the Bureau.

3. It was so decided.

4. Mr. MUMBENGEGWI (Zimbabwe) said much progress had been made in 1993 towards the creation of a non-racial, democratic South Africa and the Special Committee was on the threshold of seeing even more dramatic progress in 1994. With that goal in mind the Special Committee needed effective leadership and he therefore proposed that Mr. Gambari (Nigeria) should be re-elected Chairman of the Special Committee; Mr. Acharya (Nepal), Mr. Batiouk (Ukraine) and Mrs. des Iles (Trinidad and Tobago) should be re-elected Vice-Chairman; and Mr. Goel (India) should be re-elected Rapporteur.

5. Mr. AL-ATTAR (Syrian Arab Republic) said he believed that continuity was needed in the execution of the Special Committee's mandate, which was entering a critical final stage; therefore, he fully supported Zimbabwe's nominations to the Bureau.

6. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Special Committee wished to re-elect him as Chairman; Mr. Acharya (Nepal), Mr. Batiouk (Ukraine) and Mrs. des Iles (Trinidad and Tobago) as Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Goel (India) as Rapporteur.

7. It was so decided.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMEN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES

8. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Special Committee wished to re-elect Mr. Awoonor (Ghana) as Chairman of its Subcommittee on the Implementation of United Nations Resolutions on South Africa and Mr. Mumbengegwi (Zimbabwe) as Chairman of its Subcommittee on Development in South Africa.

9. Mr. ACHARYA (Nepal) said he strongly supported the Chairman's nominations.

10. The Chairman's nominations were adopted.

ADOPTION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

11. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the Special Committee's revised programme of work for 1994, which had been circulated by the Centre against Apartheid; he took it that members wished to take note of the programme.

12. It was so decided.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

13. The CHAIRMAN said the Special Committee had reason to be proud of the role it had played in mobilizing international support for the elimination of apartheid and promoting a peaceful political settlement in South Africa. In that context, he drew attention to various initiatives undertaken by the Special Committee, the General Assembly, specialized agencies and the international community to facilitate the settlement and highlighted areas on which attention should be focused in the future.

14. While enormous and historic progress had been made in the struggle to build a non-racial and democratic society in South Africa, the evolving situation in the country was complex and fraught with both uncertainty and danger. Political violence in the country had taken on the character of an organized campaign by opponents to the negotiating process and there was concern that escalating violence could threaten the elections scheduled for 27 April 1994. In addition, the apparent insistence of the Conservative Party and the Inkatha Freedom Party not to regard the decisions arrived at in the multi-party negotiations as binding had the potential of aggravating the situation in the country and of undermining chances for an early political settlement.

15. The international community had an important role to play in providing the necessary financial and economic assistance to ensure the establishment of a stable non-racial constitutional order in South Africa after the dismantling of apartheid. In that connection, the Special Committee was planning to participate in the forthcoming international donors' conference on human resource development in post-apartheid South Africa and in a seminar on the prospective economic priorities of the new government. In addition, the Special Committee was planning to organize a strategy session with international anti-apartheid movements and non-governmental organizations to examine the potential contributions those bodies could make to promoting a peaceful transition in South Africa.

STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FOR THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

16. Mr. MAKHUBELA (Observer for the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC)) expressed appreciation for the Chairman's leadership during the delicate transitional period in South Africa and for Ghana's equally active role in the Security Council. ANC pledged to work with the Committee in the months to come.

17. Mr. KUMALO (Observer for the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)) expressed gratitude to the United Nations and bodies like the Special Committee for their role in mobilizing the conscience of humanity against the evils of apartheid. The United Nations role had in no small way dealt devastating blows to the antiquated apartheid edifice.

18. PAC had committed itself to taking part in the forthcoming elections in South Africa on 27 April 1994. As the country prepared to vote, however, violence raged on in the African townships, having claimed almost 3,000 lives in the last half of 1993. It was not possible for a national crisis of mass political killings to coexist with positive political change. Though presumably committed to democratic change, the South African regime still had foreign

(Mr. Kumalo, Observer, PAC)

mercenaries and local murder squads in its pay. Another serious threat to the elections came from the right wing, which had refused to participate in the elections while maintaining control over armed commando units that were twice the size of the South African Defence Force. Mr. De Klerk, however, refused to disarm such units, preferring to keep them as a negotiating tactic to solicit compromise from the liberation movements.

19. At its latest national conference in December, PAC had decided that it should consult with all concerned parties on steps to bring the escalating violence to the attention of the international community for immediate action.

20. Since the Transitional Executive Council (TEC) as it stood had serious flaws unacceptable to PAC, his organization had rightly rejected participation in the TEC, pending the outcome of bilateral talks between PAC and the regime on unsettled issues like the joint administration and control of the security forces and an agreement on the mutual cessation of hostilities between PAC and fthe regime.

21. PAC, as the only custodian of the aspirations of the African masses, had a responsibility to liberate them and deliver the land to its rightful owners by all means. The April elections were cunningly geared to prolonging minority white domination and subverting the will of the African people. PAC had resolved to participate in the April elections for the purpose of enabling the Azanian masses to obtain self-determination through a constitution drawn up by an elected and unfettered Constituent Assembly.

22. Lastly, PAC asked the United Nations to assist the liberation movements in concluding their activities at Headquarters and in repatriating their personnel and equipment prior to the April elections.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.